

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

Mr. Frost was getting old and feeble. He spent just about all his time sitting in the sun rocking himself to sleep. On a lazy summer morning, as he woke up from a short nap, he saw a young lad sitting on the lawn playing with a beautiful Persian cat.

Mr. Frost squinted his eyes and said, "What time is it, son?"

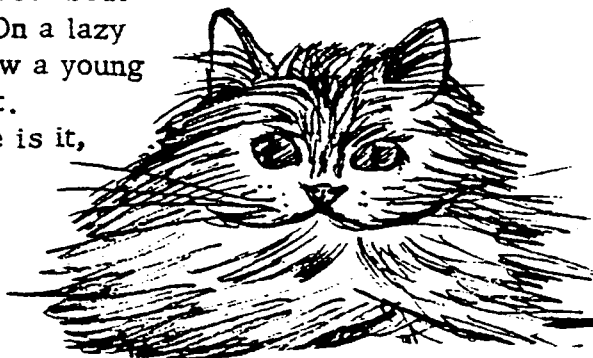
The boy took the cat in his arms and looked at his eyes. "About 10:30," he answered.

"Do you have a watch?" asked the old man.

"No," replied the lad, "I just looked in my cat's pupils. You see, as the sun shines brighter and the day progresses, its pupils become smaller and smaller. At noon time they will be just like little lines.

In the dark of the night they will be wide open. As the light reflects back on the retina, the pupils contract. He is my best timer."

"You certainly live and learn," said Mr. Frost.



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1. The main idea of this story is:
 - (a) a lazy summer afternoon
 - (b) telling time
 - (c) how cat's eyes work
 - (c) growing old
2. Mr. Frost was:
 - (a) young and spry
 - (b) short and fat
 - (c) old and feeble
 - (d) growing old
3. What kind of cat did the boy have?
 - (a) Persian
 - (b) Angora
 - (c) alley
 - (d) Siamese
4. How did the boy tell the time?
 - (a) looked at a clock
 - (b) looked at the sun
 - (c) looked at a watch
 - (d) looked in his cat's eyes
5. After Mr. Frost asked for the time, the boy:
 - (a) looked at his watch
 - (b) checked his cat's eyes
 - (c) checked the kitchen clock
 - (d) looked at the sun
6. In this story pupil means:
 - (a) a child
 - (b) student
 - (c) a part of the eye
 - (d) a young person
7. From what you have learned in this story, you could say the cat's eyes would be _____ in telling time on a cloudy day.
 - (a) more accurate
 - (b) less accurate
 - (c) the same
 - (d) impossible
8. At midnight, the cat's pupils would be:
 - (a) closed
 - (b) wide open
 - (c) little lines
 - (d) very small